

SOURCES OF LOVE AND HATE

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12. " My little girl who is 5;6 has got into a bad habit of playing with herself. We noticed once or twice that she was very sore in that part and one day saw her doing it. We told her it was naughty—would make her ill but she still does it. Mostly I think when she is resting or if she does not go to sleep at once at night. She drops off when she has done it. I feel that the rest in a room by herself is so good for her and every-one else, but would it be better to give her something to do instead of leaving her idly ? "

13. " My little boy, aged 3:7, has developed a very nasty habit, and, as it has gone on for more than a month now I thought perhaps you would tell me if I am adopting the right course—for I have seen no improvement at all. When any-thing pleases him or he is excited his hand at once goes to his ' private part' and clutches or fiddles with it. I usually try to find the hand something else to do as quickly as possible—or tell him gently to leave his knickers alone. Added to this, at times, e.g. bath time—he pulls it and examines it minutely. I have tried in this, too, to occupy the hands at once but it does not always answer and he continues to do it when opportunity occurs. I do not mean he is *always* doing it, but often it occurs once in a day."

14. " My little girl of 4 years old has developed the most terrible habit of lying about on the floor with her legs crossed or sitting on the edge of a chair and rubbing herself on the corner, or sitting with her hands, palms together, between her legs. She is a perfectly normal child but very highly strung and excitable."

15. "I should be very glad if you can give me advice, about my boy of 2;6 who has a habit of handling his genital organ whenever he settles to sleep. I heard a matron of long experience say that she almost invariably found that when children were deprived of thumb-sucking they took to this worse habit instead. My little boy does

both, however !
He took to touching his 'tail' in the day-time
as well as at
night a while ago,"
16. " I am very worried about my daughter.
She is just
7 years of age. When she was about 9 months
old I used to
notice she would lie on her back and rub her
tummy until she
went scarlet in the face and used to go to sleep.
I mentioned
this to the matron of the Nursing Home where
she was born
as I had no one whom I could ask for advice.
Matron alarmed
me by saying it was a form of self-abuse and
she would
eventually go out of her mind unless the habit
was broken.
She advised smacking very hard. I did not
smack her but
showed her that I was cross and until she was
three years of age